

Claim 6 as originally presented in the international application as filed²⁾. No new matter has been added. Favorable action is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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Encl.: CLAIM AMENDMENTS (Appendix I)

JDV/BAS

2) Cf. page 19, indicated lines 5 to 8, of the English language translation.

A P P E N D I X I:

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Amend Claim 3 as indicated in the following listing of the claims:

1. (original) A process for preparing polyoxymethylene by contacting a formaldehyde source with a catalyst of the formula I



where

M is a metal of group VIII;

L¹ is cyclooctadiene;

each L² is independently tetrahydrofuran or a ligand which is displaceable by tetrahydrofuran;

Z is an anion;

a is 1 or 2;

b is an integer from 0 to 4;

c is 1 or 2; and

m and n are integers from 1 to 4.

2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 where M is Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd or Pt.
3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 where L² is selected from tetrahydrofuran, nitriles, CO, alkenes, amines, ethers, carboxylic esters, cyclic carbonic esters, epoxides, hemiacetals, acetals and nitro compounds.
4. (original) A process as claimed in claim 3 where L² is selected from acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran and CO.
5. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 where Z is a halide, sulfonate of the formula OSO₂R, where R is alkyl, partially or fully halogenated alkyl or aryl, carboxylate, complexed borate, complexed phosphate, complexed arsenate or complexed antimonate, with the proviso that not all Z radicals are halide.
6. (original) A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein at least one Z radical is a perfluoroalkylsulfonate, tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate or hexafluoroantimonate.

7. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 where the catalyst is selected from $[\text{Pd(II)(cod)(THF)}_x](\text{SbF}_6)_2$ and $[\text{Pd(II)(cod)(CH}_3\text{CN)}_x](\text{PF}_6)_2$ where
cod is cyclooctadiene,
THF is tetrahydrofuran and
x is an integer from 1 to 3.
8. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 where the formaldehyde source is formaldehyde, trioxane or paraformaldehyde.
9. (original) A process for preparing polyoxymethylene by contacting a formaldehyde source with a catalyst of the formula
$$[\text{Ir(III)Cp}^*\text{Cl}_2\text{Ir(III)Cp}^*\text{Cl}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$$

where
Cp is pentamethylcyclopentadienyl.